

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 648

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the judge and staff of the Shelby County Juvenile Court upon winning three top designations.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those institutions and organizations that strive to improve the lives of children in their local communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy organization is the Shelby County Juvenile Court, whose noble efforts to change the face of juvenile justice in Memphis and Shelby County has garnered national recognition; and

WHEREAS, after undergoing a long and arduous inspection process, the Shelby County Juvenile Court recently became the only juvenile court in the Southeast, and one of only three nationwide, to win three top designations; and

WHEREAS, led by our former colleague, Juvenile Court Judge Curtis Person, the Shelby County Juvenile Court Detention Center earned national accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) and thus became the only accredited, publicly operated juvenile detention center in the great state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in order to capture this prestigious honor, the court perfectly demonstrated compliance with twenty-eight regulatory mandates, in addition to meeting the vast majority of almost 400 non-mandatory standards; and

WHEREAS, the Shelby County Juvenile Court also became one of only a dozen model courts nationwide as designated by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ); and

WHEREAS, dedicated to incorporating and sustaining the best practices in juvenile justice, the NCJFCJ was impressed with the court's reputation as a court of second chances and its intense focus on directing youth through a variety of groundbreaking services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), an extraordinary organization centered on aiding disadvantaged young people and reforming juvenile justice centers across the country, designated the court as a model site for Tennessee for treatment and rehabilitative efforts for youth; and

WHEREAS, at a time when this nation's youth face difficult challenges, the Shelby County Juvenile Court is one of our finest assets, reforming and rehabilitating Tennessee's youngsters with the greatest skill and compassion and ensuring that their best days are yet to come; and

WHEREAS, this highly ambitious and effective entity is worthy of profound admiration and is well deserving of the gratitude and commendation of this General Assembly; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the dedicated judge and staff of the Shelby County Juvenile Court upon winning three top designations, applaud their exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, and wish them the very best in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.